

UNADOPTED

POLEGATE TOWN COUNCIL

Minutes of the meeting of the **Town Council** held on **Monday 16th January 2006** in the **Council Chamber**, 49, High Street, Polegate at **7.30pm**.

Present: Cllrs. J. Harmer (Town Mayor), S. Barber, G. Carter, Mrs. E. Coleman, M. Cunningham, R. Martin, Mrs. V. Morson, Mrs. M. Piper, Mrs. I. Scarborough, Mrs. J. Voyce and T. Voyce

Public 2 Press 1 Barry Knights – Town Co-ordinator

6996 Apologies for absence were received from Cllrs. Mrs. Berry, FitzGerald, Gatrill, Gibbs, Mrs. Joy and Winn.

6997 Declarations of Interest
No declarations of interest were declared

6998 Budget and precept 2006/2007

a) Revised estimates - The Town Clerk presented the budget schedule for the revised estimates and the 2006/2007 base budget.

It was resolved to approve the revised estimates for 2005/2006, as submitted, resulting in a net utilisation of £23,020 from General Reserve.

b) Base Budget - The Town Clerk presented the 2006/2007 base budget which incorporated new contracts for street lighting maintenance and power and urban grass verge cutting which require approval of the Council, and any variations to the figures included will affect the base budget requirement.

It was resolved:

- i) To enter into a contract with East Sussex County Council for street lights maintenance and power supplies as soon as possible, entering the fixed price contract for maintenance at the prices quoted.
- ii) To enter into a contract with Wealden District Council Works and Services for urban grass verge cutting at the price quoted but to retain the existing budget of £13,000 and to liaise with the contractor to improve service delivery utilising the additional funds. It was also resolved that Cllrs. Martin and Mrs. Scarborough be authorised to have the discussions with the contractor.
- iii) To add the cost of a notice board (£500), the Town Map (£1000) and to continue to allow for minor works at 49/51 High Street (£250) (to be incorporated in "Maintenance of the Office") to the base budget.

Standing Orders were suspended to allow Barry Knights to identify whether any resources would be needed for the Polegate Partnership next year

Mr. Knights identified the continuing process for the partnership now that the Healthcheck has been completed but did not consider that the Town Council needed to provide any additional funds at this stage.

Standing Orders were reinstated

The variations resulted in a revised base budget of £188,610.

c) Improvements to services and facilities - Councillors considered the schedule of possible improvements to services and facilities proposed and resolved as follows:

i) To winter plant the barrier planters at Millfields	£ 300
ii) To allow for the grouping together of the planters at the Lewes Road/ A22 junction	£ 200
iii) To plants bulbs/plants at the entrance to Northfield, the B2247 and at the Polegate gateways	£ 300
iv) To allow for a net expenditure (after grants) of £20,000 to re-fit the playground at Wannock Road	£20,000
Cllr. Mrs. Morson voted against this proposal	
It was resolved to appoint a working group to develop a scheme at the Council meeting on 23 rd January.	
v) To increase the hours of the Handyman by 5 hours a week	£ 2,300
vi) To increase the hours of the Litter Picker by 3 hours a week	£ 900
vii) To rent a risograph for the production of newsletters etc.	£ 800
viii) Purchase one defibrillator to start up the "lay responder scheme"	£ 2,000
ix) To construct a petanque terrain at Wannock Road Rec.	<u>£ 2,000</u>
Total cost of new schemes	<u>£28,800</u>

A proposal to allow for the provision of one tennis court, subject to grant aid being available was not supported.

A proposal to look into the provision of 3 or 4 tennis courts for development in 2007/08 was supported. Cllr. Mrs. Morson voted against the proposal. It was resolved to support the re-design of the Skatepark but that no additional resources be allocated at this stage, and to meet any costs not allowed for in the budget from Reserves. It was resolved to authorise the Christmas Lights working group to review the nature of the lighting scheme and to research other providers and to investigate the possibility of lighting across the High Street. No additional resources were approved and that once a scheme is approved any additional funds required will be taken from reserves.

d) Precept

The total expenditure requirement for 2006/2007 is, therefore, £217,410.

It was resolved to increase the precept levied last year by 3% of the base budget requirement (£5658) and to utilise the general reserve to meet the balance (£27152).

It was therefore resolved:

In accordance with s.41 of the Local Government Finance Act 1992 Polegate Town Council has calculated its budget requirement for the financial year 2006/07 in accordance with s.50 of the Local Government Finance Act 1992 as being £190258 and Wealden District Council is directed to pay the stated amount to the Town Council and to send payments to Mr. R. C. Tice, the Town Clerk, at the Council Offices, 49, High Street, Polegate, being the person responsible for the administration of the Council's financial affairs.

The meeting ended at 9.27pm.